

International Agribusiness Center

Weekly Country Report, October 26-30, 2020

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USDA/Global Agricultural Information Network Reports

Mexico Releases Clarifications to NOM-051 Labeling Requirements – [link](#)

On Tuesday October 27 Mexico's Secretariat of Economy released updated "criteria" for imported products to comply with NOM-051-SCFI/SSA1-2010 - General Specifications for Labeling of Prepackaged Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages. The three documents seek to clarify which food and non-alcoholic beverage products must comply with the regulation focusing on inputs not destined to the final consumer, bulk merchandise, and raw materials.

Netherlands - HPAI Detected on a Commercial Poultry Farm – [link](#)

After previously identifying highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild birds, the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality has confirmed a finding on a commercial poultry farm in Altforst -- about 20 miles south from the main poultry production region in the Netherlands. The birds at this farm will be culled, and transport restrictions are imposed in a radius of roughly six miles around the farm. The Netherlands previously experienced HPAI outbreaks in its commercial flock in 2003, 2014, 2016 and 2017.

Japan Grants Market Access for All Varieties of US In-Shell Walnuts – [link](#)

From September 16, 2020, Japan allows imports of all varieties of U.S. in-shell walnuts to Japan.

Morocco - Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report – [link](#)

On January 2020, the United States and Morocco completed export certificates for U.S. breeding and fattening cattle, providing new opportunities for U.S. exporters. This report provides information on export certificates that the Government of Morocco requires. The Moroccan food safety authority, "Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits Alimentaires" (ONSSA) is the national authority responsible for ensuring food safety and food regulations in the country.

Scrapie Identified in Sheep in Iceland - [link](#)

Scrapie (a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats) was confirmed in a sheep on the Stóru-Akrar farm (home to 800 sheep) in Skagafjörður, Iceland. Subsequently, the disease was identified on three additional farms: Syðri-Hofdalir and Grænamýri in Blönduhlíð and Hof in Hjaltadal. The government is currently assessing the disease's prevalence but anticipates a significant number of animals will need to be culled.

Food Processing Magazine

Cheese Makers Struggle With Pandemic – [link](#)

Cheese processors are trying to cope with a market so roiled by the pandemic that planning has become nearly impossible. Demand has whipsawed up and down, affected by the status of restaurants, consumer needs and



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government subsidies. Even though prices are now high, cheese producers told the Wall Street Journal that fluctuating demand leave them with fears of being stuck with excessive inventory. The head of BelGioioso Cheese said that he had switched from mozzarella to Parmesan because the latter takes more than a year to age.